

The Toni Times

From the Desk of Councilmember Toni Atkins



January 2007

CITY HEIGHTS: BOOMTOWN

Relive the surge of City Heights

The San Diego Archaeological Center has researched and installed an interpretive exhibit entitled “City Heights: Boomtown” in the City Heights Branch Library located at 3795 Fairmount Avenue. This exhibit can be seen throughout the month of January 2007, and is made possible by a generous grant from Union Bank of California. This exhibit examines the home site of John B. Rice and his wife Winnie, residents of East San Diego from 1921 to 1932. In the early 1900s the San Diego Region was going through an economic and population boom. The city of East San Diego, now known as the neighborhood of City Heights, had grown from 400 people in 1910 to 4,000 by 1912. This population surge earned East San Diego the honor of being “the largest city for its age in the United States.”

University Avenue and El Cajon Boulevard were commercial centers for the small city and its environs. An archaeological excavation at the site of John and Winnie’s house indicates that they maintained a middle- to upper-class lifestyle consistent with the optimism of the 1920s boom.

The exhibit will feature artifacts excavated by Stephen R. Van Wormer, Sue A. Wade of Heritage Resources and other

archaeologists. This excavation offers fascinating new insights into everyday life at the beginning of the twentieth century. Fortunately, this collection was brought to the Center for curation as part of the cultural resource mitigation plans and is now available for public viewing and continued scientific research. The Center curates over 4,000 boxes of archaeological artifacts and associated documents representing over 450 archaeological sites*and the collections continue to grow. The collections document 10,000 years of the region’s cultural history and relates to the cultural diversity that still exists in Southern California. Nestled in the historic San Pasqual Valley, adjacent to the Wild Animal Park and Battlefield State Park is the Center’s permanent facility. Admission to the Center and Museum is free to the public during regular operating hours Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information on this exhibit and other San Diego Archaeological Center & Museum events, please call (760) 291-0370 or visit: www.sandiegoarchaeology.org.

UPDATE ON DESSERT SHOP SHOOTING

I wanted to update you on the tragic shooting that occurred at Extraordinary Desserts in Park West on December 30th, resulting in the death of Michael Fineman and the hospitalization of one of his dining companions.

Reports indicate that the suspect, Ralph Stephen Garbarini, may have fled the area, but we need to continue to be vigilant. A copy of the police bulletin, including photos of the suspect’s vehicle, can be viewed at <http://www.sandiego.gov/press/pdf/bulletingarbarini061230.pdf> . If you have any information that may be helpful to the police, I urge you to contact Lt. Kevin Rooney at (619) 531-2425 or the police department at (619) 531-2000. Anonymous tips may also be called into CrimeStoppers at (888) 580-TIPS. Please be aware that the police consider Garbarini to be armed and dangerous. If you encounter him, do not engage him, but call the police as soon as possible.

My thoughts are with the Fineman family during this very difficult time. A memorial fund for Fineman’s children — ages 3, 5, and 9 — has been established. Contributions will be accepted at any Wells Fargo Bank branch. The account number is #886139997.

SAN DIEGO POLICE PAY RANKS NEAR BOTTOM

On December 23, Mayor Sanders' office released a study comparing pay and benefits for San Diego police officers to those of nearby and comparable agencies. The bottom line: police pay consistently ranks low. Police recruits fare the worst, but even the best scenario studied – police lieutenants – still receive base pay worse than 67% of all of those surveyed. When the cost of health benefits and pension contributions is factored in, the rankings for actual take home pay place San Diego even lower on the scale. This is particularly true for police officers with family health coverage.

This report confirms what we already knew – San Diego is losing police officers because our pay and benefits cannot

compete with those of other jurisdictions. When the mayor announced his long term budget priorities last month, I asked him to add an additional priority — competitive police compensation. This report underscores the importance of doing so.



As I am sure anyone who has been a victim of one the recent string of street robberies would agree, public safety must be the city's number one concern. I will urge the mayor to incorporate this principle into his proposed budget for next year and pledge to make it a high priority as I lead the Council deliberations on the Fiscal Year

08 Budget in the coming months. Even in these lean times, we must reverse the exodus of experienced and dedicated police officers from the City of San Diego.

KENSINGTON/NORMAL HEIGHTS LIBRARY WORKSHOP

The Friends of the Kensington/Normal Heights Library are hosting a community input workshop to discuss plans to expand the library. Join them on Saturday, February 24, 2007, to share your input and suggestions! Sign-up and refreshments begin at 8:30 a.m. and the Workshop will be held from 9-11:30 a.m. The group will meet at the Kensington Community Church at 4773 Marlborough Drive. The Friends of the Library group have asked for RSVPs so they can have enough materials and refreshments. If you plan to attend, please RSVP at P.O. Box 16066, San Diego, CA 92176.



NEW STOP SIGNS IN UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

Recently stop signs have been added to the intersection of Adams Avenue and Louisiana Street in University Heights. Since the intersection is so busy and many drivers are not yet used to the intersection being an all-way stop, in an effort to increase safety I requested the City's Street Division install "Stop Ahead" signs prior to the stop signs to remind drivers of the all-way stop. I also requested "Stop Ahead" be painted on the street as well. The Street Division has recently made these additions to Adams Avenue and Louisiana Street. I hope these improvements will dramatically increase the safety of all drivers who pass through that intersection.

SKATE STOPPERS INSTALLED ON TRAFFIC CIRCLE

Recently, the Talmadge Maintenance Assessment District (TMAD), working with Beethoven Burks from the City's Park & Recreation Department, installed skate stoppers on the traffic circle to prevent skateboarders from damaging the top edges of the planters. When skateboarders skate on the traffic circle, they leave behind a dark wax residue used to increase the ability to slide along the edges of planters. With the installation of these tiny leaf-shaped skate stoppers, skateboarders can no longer slide along the edges of the planters. The type of skate stoppers chosen is both functionally and aesthetically pleasing. I encourage you to go take a look at them and spend some time at the beautiful traffic circle.

RENAISSANCE AT NORTH PARK: PURCHASE OF RETAIL SPACE

On November 27, 2006, I along with my Council colleagues voted to support the Redevelopment Agency's resolution to purchase retail space within the Renaissance at North Park project.

For some time now, North Park has expressed the need for additional community space.

The Redevelopment Agency will be working with the community to turn this into a highly functioning space.

The Renaissance at North Park project is a mixed-use project on a major transit corridor along 30th Street and El Cajon that includes: 94-units of senior housing, 14

affordable townhomes, 24 market rate townhomes and 6,000 square feet of retail space. The Redevelopment Agency has purchased the northern retail space located on

30th Street and will be working on the tenant improvements early next year. It is our hope to have the space fully operational by mid-summer.

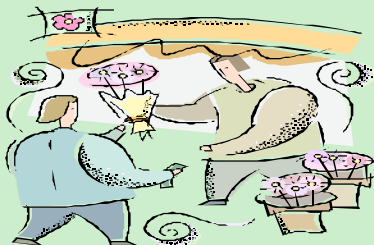


I would like to thank the community as well as the North Park Redevelopment Project Area Committee for making sure the need for community space stayed a priority.

OPEN AIR MARKET IN SOUTH PARK/GOLDEN HILL

Come to the South Park Open Air Market every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Albert Einstein Academy play ground located at 30th & A Streets. The South Park Open Air Market offers farm and organic produce, flowers, arts and crafts as well as unique services to the urban San Diego neighborhoods of South Park, Golden Hill, North Park, Burlingame, Kensington & Downtown San Diego. All proceeds of the Market will benefit the Albert Einstein Academy, an outstanding charter school in the San Diego Unified School District.

If you are interested in becoming a vendor please contact (858) 405-6086 or email info@SouthParkMarket.com.



NORMAL HEIGHTS CENTENNIAL TIME CAPSULE

Last year, Normal Heights, one of San Diego's oldest and most diverse urban communities, celebrated their hundredth birthday. The Normal Heights Cultural Council commemorated this important milestone with a Centennial Time Capsule.

The Normal Heights Cultural Council has been collecting items throughout the year that will be placed in the Centennial Time Capsule. These items include local restaurant menus, the Adams Avenue flyers of cultural events, proclamations from both the city and county, and recent articles about Normal Heights. Keepsakes will be sealed in the vessel for 100 years with the purpose of giving future residents of the community a glimpse into the past. The Normal Heights Cultural Council is organizing a dedication ceremony once a permanent spot has been chosen for the capsule. I'll be sure to keep you posted.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING PROGRAM

Recycling Christmas trees extends the life of the Miramar Landfill and provides free mulch and compost for residents' gardens/landscaping

The City of San Diego Environmental Services Department will host the 33rd Annual Christmas Tree Recycling Program now through January 23, 2007. This year's program will offer 17 drop-off locations available to residents only as well as curbside pickup for those customers with curbside yard waste collection. Through January 23, 2007, residents can drop off clean trees, during daylight hours, at any of the 17 drop-off locations listed below.

Residents participating in the Christmas Tree Recycling Program should drop off trees during daylight hours. Before depositing trees, all tree stands, lights, ornaments and other tree decorations must be removed. Please do not illegally dump any other items at the drop-off locations.

In addition to clean trees, flocked trees (fake snow) are also accepted. All trees will be recycled into high quality mulch and compost, which is available throughout the year to city residents for free if self-loaded at the Miramar Greenery.

Residents who currently receive curbside yard waste recycling collection can also recycle trees through the curbside collection program by placing trees at the curb with the regular yard waste recycling. Residents who wish to recycle trees through the curbside recycling program are required to remove all non-recyclable materials such as tinsel, ornaments and lights

before placing trees at the curb next to yard waste collection containers.

Additional information about the residential drop-off site locations is available by calling Environmental Services Department Customer Service at (858) 694-7000.

The Miramar Greenery is located inside the Miramar Landfill, located at 5180 Convoy Street, just north of the 52 Highway. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturdays, Sundays and most holidays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For information on mulch and compost produced at the Miramar Greenery, call the Miramar Landfill at (858) 492-6100.

The City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department is charged with refuse collection and disposal, recycling and environmentally-sound landfill management to meet the City's long-term disposal needs. For facts on the importance of recycling in San Diego, go to www.RecycleOrElse.com.

For more information on Environmental Services, visit the web site at www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/.

Drop-off locations for this year's Christmas Tree Recycling Program

1. Carmel Valley: Carmel Valley Recreation Center, 3777 Townsgate Drive, lower parking lot.
2. Encanto: Cielo Drive at Woodman Street.
3. Golden Hill: Golden Hill Recreation Center, 2600 Golf Course Drive.
4. La Jolla : Kate Sessions Memorial Park, Soledad Road and Loring Street.
5. Logan Heights: Memorial Recreation Center, 2902 Marcy Avenue.
6. Miramar: Miramar Landfill and Greenery, Convoy Street north of Highway 52.
7. Mission Bay: Sea World Drive at Pacific Highway.
8. Mission Valley: Super Target parking lot in Mission Valley Center.
9. Oak Park: Chollas Lake, 6350 College Grove Drive, in Gloria's Mesa parking lot.
10. Ocean Beach: Robb Athletic Field Recreation Center, 2525 Bacon Street.
11. Otay Mesa/Nestor: Montgomery Waller Community Park (upper and lower-west parking lots).
12. Rancho Bernardo: Rancho Bernardo Recreation Center, 18448 W. Bernardo Drive.
13. Rancho Penasquitos: Canyonside Recreation Center, 12350 Black Mountain Road.
14. San Diego State University: Parking Lot D off Alvarado Road.
15. Scripps Ranch: Scripps Ranch Recreation Center, 11454 Blue Cypress Drive.
16. Tierrasanta: De Portola Middle School, 11010 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard.
17. University City: Swanson Pool, 3585 Governor Drive.



District Three Community/ Neighborhood Meetings

City Heights

Azalea Park Neighborhood Association: Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 2596 Violet Street at 6:30pm.
Contact: info@azaleapark.org.

Cherokee Point Neighborhood Association: Meets the fourth Wednesday at 6:30pm, Cherokee Point Elementary School, 3735 38th Street. Contact: 619/285-1611.

City Heights Community Development Corporation: Meets the second Thursday of each month at 6pm at 4283 El Cajon Boulevard. 619/584-1535.

Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association: Meets the third Thursday of the month at 3850 Westgate Place at 6:30pm.
Contact: FairmountPark92105@yahoo.com.

Mid-City Rotary Club: Meets every Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm at the Pearson Ford Regional Transportation Center, 4001 El Cajon Blvd. For more information contact Everardo Aguilar at Everardo.Aguilar@sdcounty.ca.gov

South Castle Neighborhood Association: Meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm at the Buddhist Temple, 3322 Central Avenue. For more information, contact Laurie Carlock at (619) 284-3118.

Swan Canyon: Meets the third Wednesday of the month at 3120 Euclid Avenue at 6:30 p.m. Contact Becky at rebecca@bairfinancial.com.

Teralta West Neighborhood Alliance: Meets every first and third Thursday of the month at 4286 Marlborough Street at 6:30pm. Contact: 619/281-3551.

Golden Hill

Greater Golden Hill Community Development Corporation (GGHCDC): Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 6:30pm at the Balboa Park Golf Course Clubhouse. Contact: 619/696-9992.

Kensington

The Kensington/Talmadge Community Association: Meets every third Wednesday at the Kensington Community Church, 4773 Marlborough Drive, beginning at 7pm. (dinner for a reasonable price is served prior)

Normal Heights

Normal Heights Cultural Council: Meets the third Thursday of each month from 6:00pm-7:30pm at 4649 Hawley Boulevard.

North Park

Altadena Neighborhood Association: Board meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at Santos Coffee at Thorn and 32nd streets. Contact: 619/280-6662.

Burlingame Neighborhood Association: Meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm at different locations each month. Contact: dbyrne4bna@cox.net.

North Park Community Association: Meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at North Park Recreation Center, 4044 Idaho Street. Contact: info@northparksd.org

South Park

The South Park Action Council: Meetings are held quarterly. For information or future meeting dates, e-mail Co-Chairs: Samantha Keenan at samkeen@cox.net or Connie McDonough at conniemcdonough@cox.net.

Talmadge

The Kensington/Talmadge Community Association (see Kensington)

The Talmadge Community Council (TCC): Meets every third Tuesday at 4725 Lucille Drive beginning at 6:30pm.

University Heights

The University Heights Community Development Corporation (CDC): Meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the CDC office located at 4452 Park Blvd, Suite 104, at 6:30pm.

The University Heights Crime Watch and Neighborhood Association: Meets on the first Thursday of the month at Alice Birney School Auditorium, 4345 Campus Avenue. Crime Watch at 6:30pm; UHNA at 7:00pm.

Uptown

Bankers Hill/Park West Community Association: meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm at St. Paul's Community Care Center located at 328 Maple Street — entry is through the parking lot on the west side of the building. Contact: EucalyptusAlert@aol.com

Hillcrest Neighborhood Association and Hillcrest Neighborhood Watch - meets 2nd Tuesday at 6:30pm (Neighborhood Watch follows at 7:00pm) at Joyce Beers Community Center 1230 Cleveland Avenue, Uptown District Shopping Center next to Aladdin Restaurant. Contact: nancy@hillquest.com.

DISTRICT THREE

How To Contact Us

Councilmember Toni Atkins
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MONTHLY DISTRICT THREE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Balboa Park Committee

Santa Fe Room of the Balboa Park Club (Off Presidents Way west of Park Blvd.)
Meets the first Thursday of the month, 6:30pm
Contact: Darlene Davies, Chair: ddavies@mail.sdsu.edu

City Heights Area Planning Committee

Metro Career Center, Community Room, 3910 University Avenue
Meets the first Monday of the month, 6:30pm
Contact: Michael Sprague, Chair, 619/255-7902.

Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee (GGHPC)

Balboa Golf Course Clubhouse, Golden Hill
Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm
Contact: Patricia Shields, Chair, (619) 295-1374.

Greater North Park Community Planning Committee

North Park Christian Fellowship, Second Floor, 2901 North Park Way
Meets the third Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm.
Contact: Vicki Granowitz, Chair, (619) 584-1203, or vdgwrl@aol.com

Kensington/Talmadge Planning Group

Kensington Community Church, 4773 Marlborough Drive
Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm.
Contact: Fred Lindahl, Chair, 619/287-3157.

Normal Heights Community Planning Group

4649 Hawley Boulevard
Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:00pm
Contact: Judy Elliot, Chair, 619/563-5473.

Uptown Planners

Joyce Beers Community Center, 1230 Cleveland Ave. in the Uptown District
Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm
Contact: Leo Wilson, Chair, 619/574-0109.

MONTHLY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Adams Avenue Business Association

4649 Hawley Boulevard
Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 7:30am
Contact: 619/282-7329

City Heights Business Association

Board meetings: second Wednesday of every month at 8am
at the Metro Career Center Community Room,
3910 University Avenue.
Phone: 619/516-2282

El Cajon Blvd. Business Improvement Association

3727 El Cajon Boulevard
Meets the third Thursday of the month, 11:30am
Contact: 619/283-3608

Hillcrest Association

Joyce Beers Community Center, 1230 Cleveland Ave. in
the Uptown District
Meets the second Tuesday of the month, 5:00pm
Contact: 619/299-3330.

North Park Main Street

3076 University Avenue
Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 7:00am
Contact: 619/294-2501

MONTHLY REDEVELOPMENT MEETINGS

City Heights Project Area Committee

Metro Career Center, Community Room, 3910 University Ave.
Meets the second Monday of the month, 6pm
Contact: Karen Bucey, Chair, 619/957-5818.

North Park Project Area Committee

California Nat'l Bank, 3180 University Ave., 2nd Floor
Meets the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm
Contact: Roger Lewis, Chair, at 619/881-8977
or the city staff member at 619/533-5284.

DISTRICT THREE STAFF

Denise Price, Chief of Staff.

Dale Kelly Bankhead, Committee Consultant to the Committee on Budget and Finance. Communications Director; LGBT community liaison; HIV/AIDS issues; special orders of business.

April Chesebro, Council Representative to Kensington, Talmadge, North Park, South Park, Golden Hill and University Heights; African-American community liaison; homeless and senior issues.

Stephen Hill, Policy Advisor/Council Representative to Metropolitan Transit System, SANDAG transportation, environment, libraries, arts and culture, land use citywide; MSCP, Transit Occupancy Tax, water issues, military/veterans issues; Council docket coordinator.

Pam Ison, Council Representative to City Heights; liaison to Asian/Pacific Islander community; redevelopment; SANDAG regional housing; school liaison and education issues; women's, youth, health and Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) issues; Chargers/Qualcomm Stadium; Community Development Block Grants; newsletter; webpage.

Cheli Mohamed, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Atkins and Chief of Staff Denise Price.

Monica Pelaez, Council Representative to North Park and Normal Heights; liaison to the Latino community; Police Department liaison and public safety issues; Fire and Life Safety Services liaison.

Jeffery Tom, Council Representative to Balboa Park, Uptown and Hillcrest; infrastructure, citywide business issues, energy, telecommunications, BID Council.